

**INFORMATIONAL MEETING  
DIAL-A-BUS PROGRAM  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2011; 7:00 P.M.  
NEW WINDSOR TOWN HALL**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Supervisor Green, Councilwoman Mullarkey, Councilwoman Biasotti, Councilman Lundstrom

**OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Comptroller Finnegan, Town Attorney Blythe, Highway Superintendent Fay, Deputy Police Chief Hovey, Receiver of Taxes Scheible

**ABSENT OFFICIALS:** Councilwoman Weyant

**SALUTE TO FLAG**

Supervisor Green asked for a moment of silence in memory of William Lahey who passed away several weeks ago. He said Bill had served on the Town Board, on the school board and had been school board chairman, he was an Orange County legislator for twelve years and he will be missed by many.

Supervisor Green said that this was a public meeting which the Town is required to hold before raising fares for Dial A Bus.

Supervisor Green reported the expense and revenue figures for Dial A Bus for both 2010 and 2011 and said that in 2010 Dial A Bus had a net operating loss of \$58,894.00 and in 2011 the net operating loss is expected to be \$100,214.00. He said that since the inception of the Dial A Bus program almost twenty two years ago, the program has lost approximately \$1.3 million and without additional aide, that figure will double within the next ten years. Councilwoman Mullarkey said that the decision to raise the fares was not made lightly by the Town Board and even with new fares, taking the bus is still a good deal. Councilman Lundstrom said that recently the Town was moved into a new region which made them eligible for less state and federal funding. Councilwoman Biasotti said that everyone should get in touch with their state and federal legislators to protest the loss of funds.

Supervisor Green said that the Dial A Bus program is not being discontinued, the rates are just being raised. He then asked if anyone had any comments they wished to make.

One resident said that the bus service and the drivers were excellent. Another resident said that she had already called both senators and Congresswoman Hayworth but none of them are on any transportation committees and were unable to help.

Diane Turner said that she was the very first Dial A Bus customer back in September of 1989 and she read a letter asking that the program not be discontinued.

Another resident asked if there was a fact and figure sheet available for him to look at and said he had spoken to someone at the Orange County Transit Department. He disagreed with an earlier statement that costs would rise within the next ten years and made suggestions for lowering the cost of the program such as passing part of the cost onto the stores that the passengers visit, cutting down the operating hours and number of buses, changing from diesel to gas and writing letters to any federal legislators they might know and bringing this matter to their attention.

Leo Braun said this was a large increase all at once and feels the fares should be gradually increased.

Supervisor Green said the fares have been the same since 1989, and considering how much prices have gone up in the past twenty two years, the increase is truly not very much when you consider that at \$2.00 a ride, it is really costing the Town over \$16.00 a ride. He said the new fares will go into effect on June 1, 2011.

Hearing no one else wishing to speak, Supervisor Green closed the informational meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

**DEBORAH GREEN**  
TOWN CLERK

/clc